

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A package for an elongate surgical device, comprising:
an elongate tube having walls defining a lumen between a first end and a second end of the tube;

the tube being formed into a coiled configuration with a first coiled portion disposed adjacent to a second coiled portion; and

a weld bonding the first coiled portion to the second coiled portion in a fixed, non-peelable relationship; the weld being of sufficient strength to prevent peeling the first coiled portion from the second coiled portion to maintain the coiled configuration of the tube such that the package is rendered useless should the first coiled portion be detached from the second coiled portion.

2. (original) The package recited in Claim 1 wherein the weld is a thermal weld.

3. (original) The package recited in Claim 2 wherein:
the tube is formed into a stack of coils; and
the weld comprising a single continuous weld retaining the coils in a fixed relationship.

4. (original) The package recited in Claim 2 further comprising:
a backing card carrying the tube in the coiled configuration.

5. (original) The package recited in Claim 4 further comprising:
a pouch forming with the backing card a sterilizable, hermetically sealed, enclosure for the coiled tube.
6. (original) The package recited in Claim 4 wherein the elongate tube and the backing card is composed of a common material.
7. (original) The package recited in Claim 1 further comprising:
a retaining accessory coupled to the first end of the elongate tube.
8. (original) The package recited in Claim 7, wherein the elongate tube and the retaining accessory is composed of a common material.
9. (withdrawn) A method for packaging an elongate surgical device having an outside diameter, comprising the steps of:
providing an elongate tube having a tube wall with an inside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the device;
coiling the tube to move a first tube portion into an adjacent relationship with a second tube portion; and
bonding the tube walls of the adjacent tube portion without occluding the tube to form a fixed relationship between the first tube portion and the adjacent second tube portion, and to maintain the tube in a coiled configuration.
10. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein the bonding step includes the step of thermally bonding the tube portions to form at least one weld between the tube portions.

11. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein the bonding step includes the step of:

joining the tube portions with a bridge; and
bonding the bridge to the first tube portion and the second tube portion.

12. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising the step of:
providing a backing card; and
attaching the tube in the coiled configuration to the backing card.

13. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein the coiling step includes the step of forming the tube into a plurality of coils having a common diameter and defining a stack of coils.

14. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the bonding step includes the step of bonding the adjacent tube portions at a plurality of discreet locations around the stack of coils.

15. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the bonding step includes the step of welding the adjacent coil portions to form a single continuous weld around the stack of coils.

16. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising the step of:
inserting the surgical device into the tube in the coiled configuration.

17. (withdrawn) A method for making a package for an elongate surgical device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate tube having walls defining a lumen between a first end and a second end of the tube;

attaching the first end of the tube to a fixture having at least one heating station and a turntable rotatable relative to the heating station;

rotating the turntable to form the tube into at least one coil having adjacent coiled portions; and

bonding the adjacent coiled portions as they rotate by the heat station.

18. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 17 wherein the rotating step includes the step of forming the tube into a stack of coils.

19. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 18 wherein the bonding step includes the step of bonding each of the coils in the stack of coils to an adjacent coil in the stack of coils to form at least one thermal bond.

20. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 17 further comprising the step of: heating the adjacent coil portions to thermally bond the coil portions.

21. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 20 wherein the heating step includes the step of directing heated air onto the adjacent coiled portions;

22. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 20 wherein the heating step includes the step of contacting the adjacent coiled portions with a heating element.

23. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 20 wherein the applying step includes the step of directing a laser beam onto at least one of the adjacent coiled portions.

24. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 20 wherein the heating step includes the step of:

plasticizing the adjacent coiled portions to form a non-peelable bond between the adjacent coiled portions.

25. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 17 further comprising the step of thermally bonding a retention accessory to the tube.

26. (withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 17 further comprising the step of thermally bonding a backing card to the tube.

27. (Currently amended) A package for an elongate surgical device, comprising:
an elongate tube having walls defining a lumen between a first end and a second end of the tube;

the tube being formed into a coiled configuration with a first coiled portion disposed adjacent to a second coiled portion; and

a thermal weld bonding the first coiled portion to the second coiled portion in a fixed, non-peelable relationship such that the package is rendered useless should the first coiled portion be detached from the second coiled portion.

28. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 27, wherein the thermal weld comprises a separate bridge bond thermally bonded to the first coiled portion and the second coiled portion:

29. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 27, wherein the tube and the separate bridge bond are composed of a common material.

30. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 27, wherein the first coiled portion and the second coiled portion are disposed along a common plane.

31. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 27, wherein the thermal weld is continuous.

32. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 27, wherein the thermal weld is intermittent.

33. (Currently amended) A package for elongate surgical devices, comprising:
a first elongate tube having walls defining a first lumen between a first end and a second end of the first tube;

the first tube being formed into a first coiled configuration with a first coiled portion disposed adjacent to a second coiled portion;

a first weld bonding the first coiled portion to the second coiled portion in a first fixed, non-peelable relationship;

a second elongate tube having walls defining a second lumen between a third end and a fourth end of the second tube;

the second tube being formed into a second coiled configuration with a third coiled portion disposed adjacent to a fourth coiled portion; and

a second weld bonding the third coiled portion to the fourth coiled portion in a second fixed, non-peelable relationship.

34. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 33, wherein:

the first weld comprises a first thermal weld; and

the second weld comprises a second thermal weld.

35. (Previously presented) The package recited in Claim 33, wherein:

first coiled portion and the second coiled portion are disposed along a first plane;
and

third coiled portion and the fourth coiled portion are disposed along a second plane above the first plane